

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) A metadirectory system comprising:
  - a plurality of adapter peers each associated with a respective source system and each for communicating data changes regarding data of defined data types, each adapter peer communicating with other adapter peers in a peer-to-peer fashion;
  - a first join engine peer for communicating with adapter peers in the peer-to-peer fashion and for combining data for the adapter peers to generate data of defined data types and wherein the first join engine peer is also for performing data transformations regarding data from the adapter peers; and
  - a first plurality of communication channels for broadcasting data changes from the plurality of adapter peers and for broadcasting the data generated by the first join engine peer, each communication channel of the first plurality of communication channels associated with a particular data type.
2. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 1 wherein the first join engine peer is also for generating queries for data of specific data types and further comprising a second plurality of communications channels for broadcasting the queries and wherein each channel of the second plurality of communication channels is associated with a particular data type.
3. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 2 wherein adapter peers respond to the queries by broadcasting data over one or more communication channels dedicated to responding to the queries of the first join engine peer.
4. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 2 wherein the first join engine peer generates the queries in response to a data change received from an adapter peer.
5. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 4 wherein the data generated by the first join engine peer relates to a third data type comprising a first data type and a second

data type and wherein the queries are generated in response to the data change to the first data type and wherein the second data type is supplied in response to the queries.

6. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 1 wherein the plurality of adapter peers are each software processes.
7. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 6 wherein the software processes each operate on a separate server system.
8. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 6 wherein the first join engine peer is a software process.
9. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 1 wherein the data of the defined data types generated by the first join engine peer comprises a consolidated view of data associated with two or more other data types.
10. (Original) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 1 further comprising a second join engine peer for communicating with adapter peers and the first join engine peer in the peer-to-peer fashion and for combining data from adapter peers and from the first join engine peer to generate data of defined data types and wherein the second join engine peer is also for performing data transformations.
- 11.–36. (Withdrawn)
37. (New) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 1 wherein an adapter peer of the plurality of adapter peers is partitioned into a first adapter peer and a second adapter peer, wherein the first adapter peer is dedicated to providing information for a first data type and the second adapter peer is dedicated to providing information for a second data type.
38. (New) A metadirectory system as described in Claim 1 wherein the first join engine peer is partitioned into a second join engine peer and a third join engine peer, wherein the second join engine peer is dedicated to performing a first join specification and the third join engine peer is dedicated to performing a second join specification.